



The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- April 9, 2012
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Latest News

Activists Fear EPA Could Weaken Fracking Controls In Drilling Air Rules

Environmentalists fear that EPA appears increasingly likely to either soften or drop its proposal to mandate “green completion” emissions controls at new hydraulic fracturing operations and other drilling sites in pending air rules for the sector, with EPA facing major industry pressure to soften the controls ahead of the rule's imminent release.

States, Biofuel Advocates See EPA Stalling 'Tier III' Rule Until After Election

State officials and biofuel advocates say EPA might delay its “Tier III” fuel and vehicle rule until after the November election, saying the Obama administration could stall the rule to try and avoid until after the election new controversies over an agency regulation that Republicans, industry and others argue will exacerbate rising gas prices.

EPA Seeks SAB Advice For Bid To Improve Cost Estimates Of New Rules

EPA is seeking input from its Science Advisory Board (SAB) in how to craft a major study to improve its estimates of the potential economic costs of regulations, citing problems assessing the costs of existing rules that often lead to overstating the compliance costs for industry and uncertainty over how to assess some industry costs.

High Court Ruling Scrapping Health Law Mandate Could Limit EPA Powers

EPA may face new limits on its statutory powers if the Supreme Court later this year overturns President Obama's health law -- in particular its mandate that individuals purchase health insurance -- as unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause, as many environmental laws that EPA implements are based on the same constitutional grounding.

States Push EPA To Retain Flexible Method For Recreational Water Criteria

Latest Blogs

Activists Criticize EPA Dimock Data

EPA's latest round of sampling of residential drinking water supplies in Dimock Township, PA -- where natural gas drilling is suspected to have contaminated water . . .

EPA Seeks Data For IRIS Studies

EPA has released lists of the existing scientific studies it plans to use in upcoming Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) risk assessments of two chemicals, . . .

EPA IG Releases Strategic Plan

EPA's Inspector General (IG) has released its strategic plan outlining its agenda for 2012 through 2016, with plans to evaluate the use of retrospective cost-benefit . . .

States are urging EPA to retain its flexible method for protecting beaches and other recreational waters from bacteria, charging that an agency proposal to eliminate the approach will limit states' ability to set scientifically defensible water quality standards (WQS), and could ultimately result in a greater number of impaired waters listings.

DOE Will Seek State Regulators' Approval To Slow Cleanups After FY13

Budget constraints hitting the Department of Energy (DOE) will force it in the next several months to pursue talks with state regulators to stretch out time lines under enforceable agreements for accomplishing its nuclear waste cleanups in fiscal year 2014 and beyond. A top DOE official says the department will lack the funds to meet existing, enforceable cleanup milestones after FY13.

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